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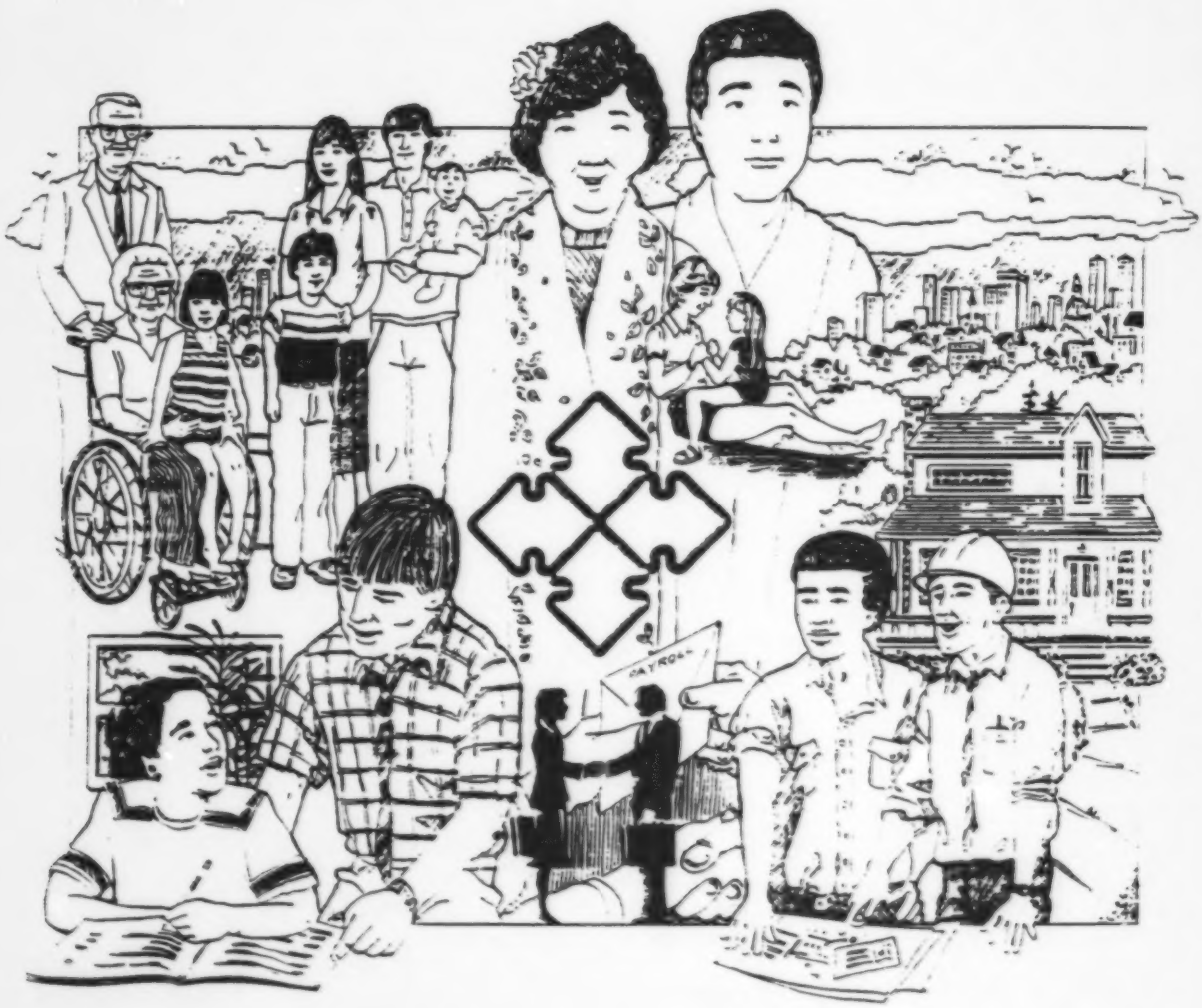
Winnipeg Census Data

Insights & Trends



An information kit from the

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

1989

Comparing Census '81 to Census '86

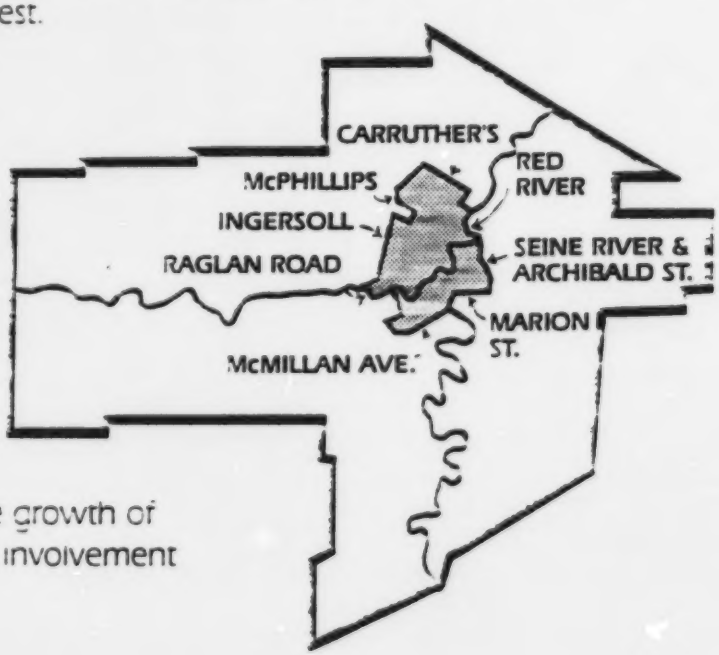
A city wears its problems on its sleeve. Poverty, homelessness, and the concentration of disadvantaged people in depressed neighbourhoods are conspicuous phenomena.

What we cannot see at a glance, however, are subtle trends and gradual changes occuring over a period of years. These changes are invisible both because they are gradual and because they are relative. Neither personal observation nor statistical snapshots give us an adequate picture.

Changes over a five year period, by contrast, can tell us much that we need to know in planning for the future of our city. It is a period long enough to smooth out statistical bumps, but short enough to allow planners and service agencies to address current trends.

This infokit summarizes a comprehensive tabular analysis of Winnipeg census data in 1981 and 1986 with particular emphasis on disclosure of trends. The comprehensive analysis is available on request.

We have examined the statistics for five population groups: The elderly, single parents, Natives, visible minorities, and immigrants. Four further chapters consider specific conditions or situations affecting these groups: housing, income, employment and household makeup. A separate chapter isolates perhaps the single most alarming trend of these statistics: the growth of single parent families and their high involvement with child welfare services.



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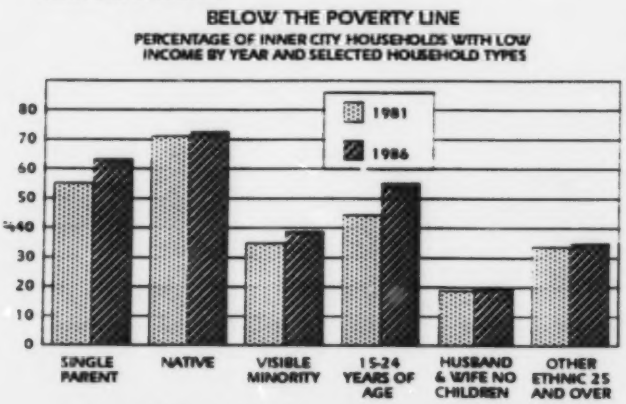
An Overview of Population and Inner City Trends

Crisis in the making:

The growth of such disadvantaged groups as Natives, new Canadians, single parents, and the elderly is threatening to undermine society's ability to deliver social services in any meaningful way.

Winnipeg's population grew by only 5.3% from 1981 to 1986, but the number of elderly over 70 years of age grew by 11.5%, the Native population by 70.7%, the Asian immigrant population by 31.2%, and the number of single parents by 17.6%.

The growing size of the elderly population means that there will eventually be a decline in the active labour force as more and more Winnipegers approach retirement. The aging trends are clear. Between 1981 and 1986, the proportion of the population under 20 has actually declined by 3.7%, while the proportion of the population between the ages of 30 and 49 has increased from 24.6% in 1981 to 27.2% in 1986. A decline in the size of the active labour force due to retirement will mean a shrinking of the tax base upon which the social service network is based.



It is, therefore, imperative that education and employment strategies be designed in the present to minimize the future vulnerability of a rapidly growing disadvantaged population.

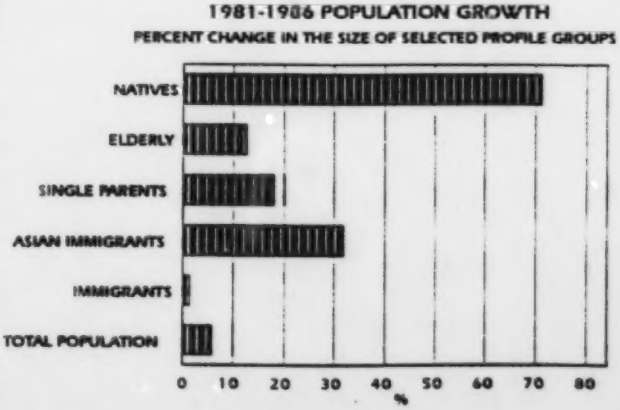
The inner city - the crisis at hand:

Declining incomes, increasing rents, and the greater inability of low income earners to purchase housing, combined with a rapid population growth among a number of severely disadvantaged groups, underlie the nature of the crisis within the inner city.

Although the population of the inner city is not growing as quickly as the rest of Winnipeg, the growth that is taking place is concentrated among those groups already struggling with a relatively low standard of living. For example, between 1981 and 1986, the number of Native households grew from 5.2% of all inner city households to 7.5%. During the same period, the number of visible minority households rose from 8.7% of all inner city households to 13%.

Declining levels of income are an inner city reality. Average household income decreased from $22,659 in 1980 to $22,315 in 1985, as calculated in 1985 constant dollars. This compares to an increase of $35,120 to $36,529 between 1981 and 1986 for the rest of the city.

The already disadvantaged inner city groups share a disproportionate burden of this decline in income. For example, less vulnerable inner city households groups, such as husband and wife families with children, although not untouched by the increasing number of low income households, have experienced a much less severe proportionate increase compared to visible minorities, young individuals aged 15-24, and single parents. While the proportion of low income husband and wife families with children rose only slightly from 19.7% to 20% between 1981 and 1986, during the same period the proportion of low income households where the maintainer is between 15 and 24 rose from 45.1% to 56.1%, and the proportion of low income single parent households rose from 54.1% to 62.8%.



The increase in the single parent population is one of the most pressing problems both inside and outside the inner city. However, within the inner city, single parents experience conditions much more difficult than their counterparts in other areas of the city. The number of inner city single parent families increased from 5,020 in 1981 to 5,785 in 1986. Young single parent families, where the household maintainer is under 25, increased from 680 to 800 during the same period. The most alarming increase, however, occurred among Native single parent families which between 1981 and 1986 rose in number from 1,005 to 1,395.

Unemployment and low income levels are chronic among inner city single parents. The proportion who are actually working declined from 44.2% in 1981 to 42.4% in 1986. During the same period, the level of employment among single parents under 25 dropped from 28.7% to 22.5%. Although the proportion of Native single parents who were employed remained stable between 1981 and 1986, the level of employment which they maintained was an alarmingly low 20%.

The inability of single parents to find employment results in a situation where over 60% of inner city single parent households live below the poverty line and 75% pay one-quarter or more of their household income on shelter.

Natives

Low standards of living:

Natives are disadvantaged in all socioeconomic categories when compared to the general population. They earn less, have lower levels of education, and are unemployed more often. Their plight is particularly acute in the economically depressed inner city where their per capita representation is twice that of the city as a whole. Although some progress has been made in housing, the trends indicate that the economic gap between Natives and non-Natives is widening.

City wide, financial stress on Natives is severe. More than half of the Native households live below the poverty line, compared to 1 in 5 non-Native households. A university education remains elusive for most Native students, and of those that attend post-secondary school few complete their degrees. By 1986, out of the 2,315 Natives who had reached university only 610, or 1 in 4, graduated. This compares to nearly 1 in 2 of the overall university population. The failure to achieve adequate levels of education is reflected in the work force. Unemployment is high. Where a 7% unemployment rate exists for the general population, Native unemployment runs at over 20%.

Inner city woes:

If the city wide figures are alarming, they are even more so for the inner city. In 1986, out of a total Native population of 27,475, 11,640 were living in the inner city. That's 40% of the Native population crowded into the most economically depressed area of the city where they represent 1 in every 10 residents. Here poverty among Natives is not the exception, it is the rule. Seven out of 10 Native households exist below the poverty line, compared to 4 out of 10 non-Native households. A university education is almost unheard of. Only 1 Native in 10 has even attended university, half the number for non-Natives. Unemployment is staggering. One in every 3 Natives, compared to slightly more than 1 in every 10 non-Natives, is unemployed.

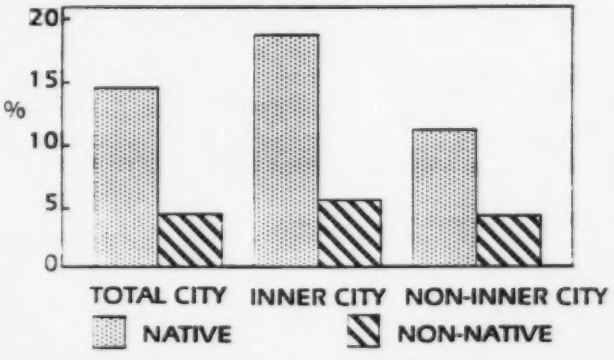
The widening gulf:

Between 1981 and 1986 the native population of Winnipeg increased from 16,100 to 27,475. This is an increase of over 70%. Unfortunately, these figures are distorted by a broadening of Census Canada's definition of "Native", and must be taken with some caution. Nevertheless, the figures represent very real trends not only in population growth but in various segments of that population.

Native single parent families have grown in number at an alarming rate. Between 1981 and 1986 they rose by 58% from 1,575 to 2,485. The proportion of the 15+ Native population which is single parents is now 3 times that of the general population. In the inner city nearly 1 in 5 Natives 15 years and over is a single parent.

SINGLE PARENTS

PERCENTAGE OF NATIVES AND NON-NATIVES 15+ BY AREA OF THE CITY



Housing, especially rented accommodation, shows the strain of rising costs outpacing income. Paying rents which consume 25% or more of the household income, a situation termed "high shelter costs", is increasingly applicable to the Native renter. More and more Natives are spending too much of their income on rent. City wide, high shelter costs are a fact of life for 64% of Native households. This is up from 56% in 1981. In the inner city, the burden of high shelter costs is carried by over 70% of Native households. Although Native home ownership has increased between 1981 and 1986, the problem of high shelter costs is a major factor for a significant proportion of the 7 out of 10 Native households that continue to rent.

Age and income do not increase hand-in-hand among Natives to the degree expected among the general population. As Natives grow older their incomes grow much more slowly than for non-Natives. For example, Native heads of household in the 45 to 64 age group average only a 5% increase in income over the previous age group of 25 to 44. This compares to a more than 18% increase for the same age group among non-Natives.

In the inner city the situation is even worse. Incomes not only start low, they actually shrink with the passage of time. Average household income does not rise above $16,000 a year in any age group, and inner city Natives experience a decline in income after the age of 44.

Signs of hope:

The problems facing Natives in Winnipeg are significant, but there are optimistic signals. Increases in both employment and education among young Natives are encouraging.

Youth unemployment has fallen by almost 9% between 1981 and 1986. However, continuing progress is imperative since the unemployment rate for Natives under 25 is still unacceptably high at almost 31%.

Education among young Natives is increasing, at least at the lower levels. The number of Natives with less than grade 9 education has fallen from 1 in 3 in 1981 to 1 in 5 in 1986.

The relevance of these figures should not be overlooked. Young Natives form the only group that shows a consistent improvement in its condition, and it is precisely this group which forms a significant proportion of the Native population. Children, defined as those under the age of 15, represent almost 4 out of every 10 Natives, and in the next age group, 15 to 24, the numbers are 2 out of every 10. This is significantly higher than the non-Native population.

The Elderly

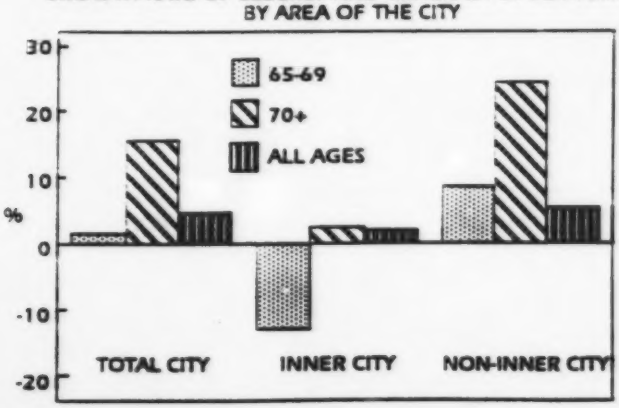
A growing population:

Winnipeg's elderly population, 65 years and older, is increasing both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the general population. The elderly often live alone, have low levels of income, and for those who rent, experience the pressure of high shelter costs. The situation is particularly acute in the inner city. Despite the very real problems faced by the elderly, however, there are some indications that conditions among them are improving.

Retiring into poverty:

The elderly are the fastest growing segment of the population. In 1981 there were 65,710 individuals over the age of 65 living in Winnipeg. By 1986 this total rose to 73,170, an increase of more than 11%, compared to an overall population increase of slightly more than 5%. This growth rate is significant, even though between 1981 and 1986 the proportion of the total population over 65 years increased from 11.6% to 12.3%. However, elderly households currently represent 1 in 5 of all households. Significantly, the greatest rise in the elderly population is occurring among those over 70. While the population between the ages of 65 and 69 rose by almost 2% between 1981 and 1986, the population of those over 70 rose by more than 16%.

1981-1986 POPULATION INCREASE
GROWTH RATE OF ELDERLY AND GENERAL POPULATION BY AREA OF THE CITY



Living alone is a chronic condition among the elderly. Almost 1 out of every 2 elderly households comprises a single person. This compares to 1 in 5 for the general population. The potential for loneliness and apathy in this situation is acute. Health risks are also a problem for the elderly living alone. The danger of both minor and even life threatening injuries going unattended is very real.

Low income levels are a problem for the elderly. One in 3 elderly households is below the low income line. This compares to 1 in 5 for all other households.

The cost of renting accommodation also puts a strain on the fixed incomes of the elderly. High shelter cost, a situation where rent consumes 25% or more of the renter's income, is a problem for the elderly renter. More than 1 in every 2 experiences the pressure of high shelter costs. Although affordability of shelter is much less of a problem for the elderly home owner, home ownership, which for most elderly represents a life long investment, is no guarantee of immunity from high shelter costs. The costs associated with living in their own home is a burden to almost 1 in 5 elderly home owners.

Inner city woes:

Although the city wide circumstances of the elderly are difficult, the problems in the inner city are severe. Like a number of other groups, there is a greater concentration of the elderly in the economically depressed inner city. The 13,070 elderly households in the inner city account for 1 in 4 of all inner city households, compared to slightly less than 1 in 5 outside the inner city. However, it should be kept in mind that this figure is inflated somewhat by the high proportion of one person elderly households in the inner city. Slightly more than 61% of all elderly inner city households are 1 person households. Nevertheless, the elderly on an individual basis still represent more than 17% of the inner city population.

Low income is a serious problem for the elderly in the inner city. Slightly more than 45% of inner city elderly households are below the low income line. This compares to 38% of other inner city households and to only 14% of elderly households outside the inner city.

Looking to the future:

Despite the many problems that face the elderly, there are indications that as a group they are becoming more and more able to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

Low income levels actually show a decline. City wide, the proportion of low income elderly households decreased by 13% between 1981 and 1986.

Home ownership among the elderly is also an indicator of their ability to succeed. City wide 57% of elderly households are owned. This is significant because elderly home owners have the least shelter affordability problems when compared to those in any other age group. However, although the 57% ownership figure is impressive, it must be pointed out that home ownership drops significantly from the 75% home ownership figure for those aged 45 to 64 years.

Inner city residency is declining significantly among the elderly. Although the elderly still make up a large proportion of the inner city and continue to suffer the economic pressures of living there, their numbers are declining. Despite a city wide increase in the elderly population of nearly 10% between 1981 and 1986, the inner city population for those between 65 and 69 years has decreased by nearly 14%. This shift towards other areas of the city, where living standards are higher, is a positive sign that the elderly are finding ways to care for themselves or are finding support groups and institutions who are able to care for them. Between 1981 and 1986, the elderly 70 years and older living outside the inner city grew from 28,270 to 34,815, an increase of 23%. This radical rise in numbers leads to the speculation that the elderly are a mobile group and that they are sensitive to the shift in special housing geared towards the care of the elderly.

Immigrants

Who they are:

Anyone who was born outside Canada and who does not report "Canadian citizenship by birth" is defined by Statistics Canada as an immigrant. This very diverse group demonstrates a general trend of beginning their residency in Canada at the lower ends of the socio-economic ladder and then slowly climbing their way towards equality with the general population. However, the short to-medium-term difficulties of newly arrived immigrants are considerable.

The origins of Winnipeg's immigrant community are world wide. Immigrants include British, Italians, Asians, and Blacks. The areas of the world from which immigrants come is in constant flux and depends on geo-political circumstances. Currently, the most significant numbers of immigrants are arriving from Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Although certain ethnic subgroups are experiencing dramatic increases in immigration, the number of recent immigrants has actually declined by almost 16% between 1976 and 1986. Growth in the overall immigrant population has also slowed. Between 1981 and 1986, there was only a 1% increase in the immigrant population compared to a general population increase of 5%.

Laying the foundations - the first ten years:

The key to understanding Winnipeg's immigrant population is to recognize the distinction between recent immigrants and immigrants who have been resident for some time. Recent immigrants are those who have arrived in Canada within the last 10 years. The 1986 Census shows this group to be less well off than the general population while the more established immigrants achieve standards of living as high, if not higher, than the general population.

Because a large number of immigrations are motivated by economic, social, and political instabilities in the immigrants' homeland, recent immigrants tend to begin their residency with little or no wealth. They either do not have it to begin with or are unable to bring it out of their country of origin. Although the number of recent immigrants has declined recently, the increase within particular ethnic subgroups from socially and politically unstable areas of the world are significant. For example, 70% of Pacific Islanders, 53% of South Asians, 97% of Indo-Chinese, 70% of South East Asians, and 62% of Latin and Central Americans are recent immigrants.

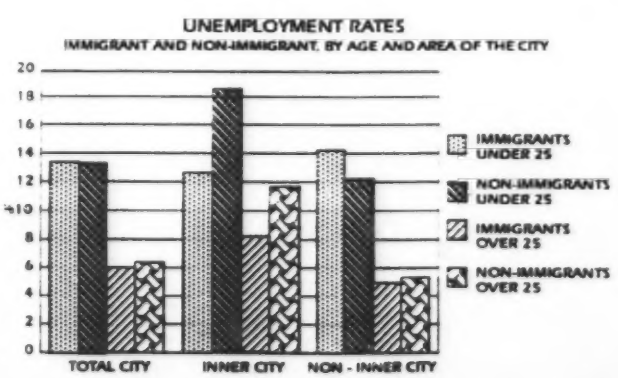
Inner city residency reflects the low income levels of recent immigrants. They are over represented in this economically depressed area of the city where they account for 28% of the population. Out of all the recent immigrants living in Winnipeg, 40% live in the inner city.

Unemployment is also higher among recent immigrants than it is among the general immigrant population. Both inside and outside the inner city, unemployment among recent immigrants is slightly more than 10%.

Building on success:

Unemployment rates tend to decline with the passage of time. The longer an immigrant has been resident in Canada the more likely it is that he or she will find employment. From a city wide high of 10% for recent immigrants, the unemployment rate for those who immigrated between 1967 and 1976 is 7%. Going further back in time the results are even more impressive. For those who immigrated before 1967, the unemployment rate is only 5%.

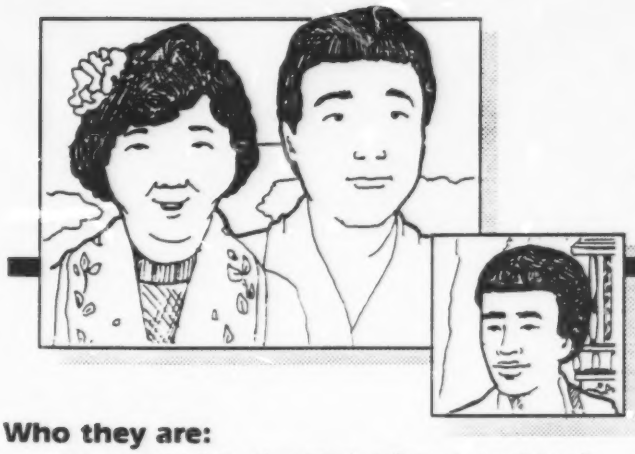
Not only do unemployment rates decline with the passage of time, immigrants, both recent and established, have a lower unemployment rate than the general population. Slightly more than 7% of immigrants, compared to slightly more than 8% of the general population, are unemployed.



Unemployment, however, is slightly higher for young immigrants between the ages of 15 and 24. The 13.6% unemployment rate for younger immigrants does not compare unfavourably with the 13.4% unemployment rate among the general population in the same age group. However, in the inner city, immigrant unemployment in this age group actually outperforms the general population. Immigrant youth unemployment stands at 13% in the inner city compared to a non-immigrant inner city unemployment rate of 19%.

Migration from the inner city to other areas of the city is also a significant indicator of the immigrant's ability to better their standards of living over time. Recent immigrants tend to take up residence initially in the inner city and then move outwards. This pattern is consistent throughout the ethnic subgroups of immigrants. Although the inner city immigrant population is currently dominated by Asians, 84% of the Asians who immigrated prior to 1967 live outside the inner city. The same is true of British immigrants. Only 17% of all British immigrants live within the inner city, compared to 30% of recent British immigrants who live within the inner city.

Education, as an indicator of a group's ability to succeed in the community, is not as clear cut as some of the other indicators. The concern is at the lower levels. One in 4 of all immigrants have less than grade 9 education. This compares to 1 in 10 for the general population. At the university level, however, immigrants perform very well. Immigrants with at least some university constitute 22.5% of all immigrants. This compares favourably with the 23.8% of the general population who have at least some university. The figures for graduation rates are also good. For both immigrants and non-immigrants the graduation rates for those with at least some university is about 49%.



Visible Minorities

Who they are:

The term "visible minorities" defines a number of ethnic groups. These include: Blacks, Indo-Pakistanis, Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, South East Asians, Filipinos, other Pacific Islanders, West Africans, Arabs, and Latin Americans.

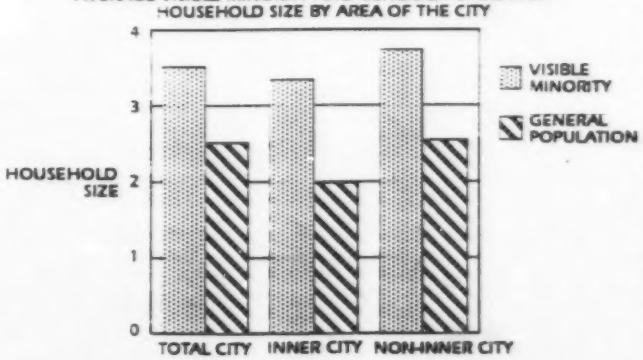
Low standards of living:

Despite a number of indicators that suggest visible minorities are doing well, a careful examination of income levels reveals that their living standards fall considerably below that of the general population. On an individual basis, visible minorities earn less than others in the general population.

At first glance this does not seem to be the case. City wide, there is very little to choose between the incomes of visible minority households and the rest of the population. The key factor is the size of the household. Visible minority households tend to be much larger than other households. The 15,780 visible minority households average 3.5 persons per household, compared to an average 2.5 persons for the rest of the population. This results in a much lower per capita income for the visible minority individual compared to the population at large. City wide, average income is $12,897 for the visible minority individual, compared to $16,264 for individuals in the general population. It requires a larger number of individual incomes per household for visible minorities to maintain their household incomes at par with the city average.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

AVERAGE VISIBLE MINORITY AND GENERAL POPULATION HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY AREA OF THE CITY



Inner city residency reflects the low level of per capita income. Visible minorities are highly concentrated in the economically depressed inner city. Out of a city wide population of 43,205, 16,165 or 37% live in the inner city. They represent almost 16% of the inner city population, compared to only 6% of the population outside the inner city.

Stepping into the future:

Although presently successful on a household basis and disadvantaged on an individual basis, real strengths in education, home ownership, and to some extent employment levels leave visible minorities well placed to take advantage of the opportunities open to them.

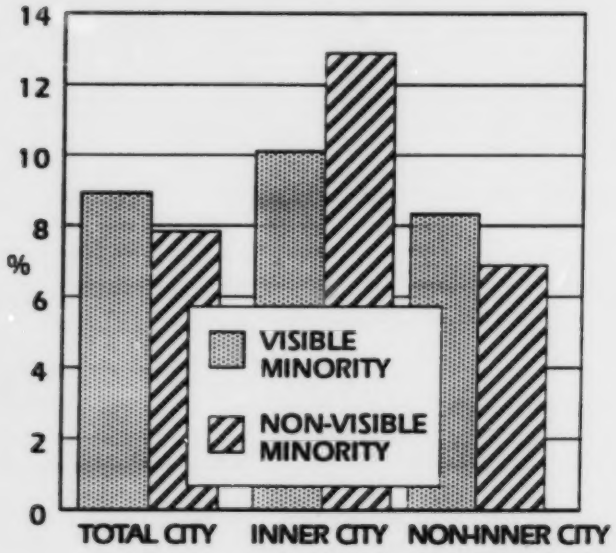
Education is a crucial factor in any group's ability to improve their standards of living, not only in dollars and cents, but in the quality of employment that becomes available and in the enhanced opportunities to participate in the community as a whole. Compared to the general population, visible minorities fare very well in achieving high levels of education. The percentage of visible minorities with less than grade 9 is actually less both within the inner city and outside the inner city when compared to the rest of the population. If there is a problem, it lies in the 15 to 24 age group. Over 7% of visible minorities in this age group have less than grade 9 education, compared to slightly less than 3% for others in the same age group. However, this is off-set at the high school level where 63% of visible minorities in the 15 to 24 age group have achieved a high school education, compared to 61% for the rest of the population. At the university level, enrollment is significantly higher for visible minorities. Over 33% of visible minorities have at least some university education, compared to 23% for other groups.

Unemployment rates for visible minorities are lower in the inner city compared to the rest of the inner city population. Only 10% of inner city visible minority residents are unemployed, compared to almost 13% for the rest of the inner city population. However, some concern must be raised regarding the unemployment levels for visible minorities outside the inner city. Here the unemployment rate is higher than the general population and

does not reflect the educational levels achieved by visible minorities. Unemployment is slightly more than 8% among visible minorities, while the rest of the population experiences an unemployment rate of 7%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

VISIBLE AND NON-VISIBLE MINORITY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY AREA OF THE CITY



Housing is a category where visible minorities demonstrate a significant advantage over the general population both inside and outside the inner city. They own their homes much more frequently than others. Outside the inner city, 73% own their homes, compared to 64% for the general population. Even in the inner city, the balance is in their favour, 38% versus 33%.

The cost of housing does not severely burden minority groups on a household basis any more than it does the population at large. "High shelter costs" defined as the spending of 25% or more of household income on shelter, applies to approximately 33% of both the visible minority population and the general population. Within the inner city, the comparison actually favours visible minorities where only 39% of visible minority households have high shelter costs, compared to 47% of the rest of the inner city population.

Single Parents

Low standards of living:

Single parents are seriously disadvantaged in all socio-economic categories when compared to the general population. They earn less, have lower levels of education, are more likely to experience high shelter costs, participate in the labour force much less frequently, and when they do participate, are more likely to be unemployed. Their plight is particularly acute in the economically depressed inner city where single parent families represent 1 family in 4. Single parents are predominantly female, and it is disturbing that single parenthood is growing most rapidly among the already disadvantaged Native and visible minority groups.

Unable to cope:

Financial stress on the single parent family across the city is severe. Single parent households are below the low income line more often than any other household type. Almost 4 out of every 10 single parent households exist below the low income line, compared to only 1 out of every 10 husband and wife families with or without children.

The lack of education is a severe constraint upon the single parent. Three out of 5 single parents have failed to graduate from high school, compared to 2 out of 5 for the general population.

Unemployment rates reflect the failure of single parents to obtain adequate schooling. Almost 11% of single parents are unemployed, compared to 8% of the general population. The problem is even more critical among young single parents between the ages of 15 and 24. In this age group 29% are unemployed, compared to 14% of others in the same age group.

High shelter costs, a situation where 25% or more of the household income is spent on shelter, is a severe problem for single parent households. Over half of them rent their accommodation, and of these, 69% experience high shelter costs. The situation is better for single parent home owners. However, even 31% of these experience high shelter costs.

The gender gap:

The burden of single parenthood is not shared equally across gender lines. Single parenthood is an experience dominated by women. Out of a city wide single parent population of 22,505 over the age of 25, 84% are women. When the single parent is under 25, almost 97% are women.

Not only is single parenthood dominated by women, female single parents tend to be much less well off than their male counterparts. The poverty of single parenthood is an almost exclusively female experience. For example, the average income of male single parents is $31,789, compared to the average income of female single parents of only $19,919.

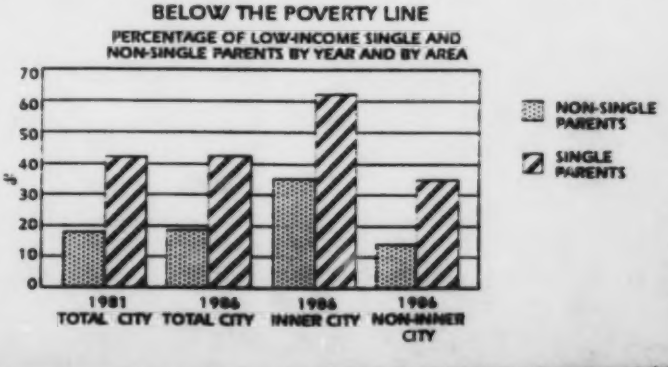
Inner city crisis:

Although the problems of single parents are alarming on a city-wide basis, the situation in the inner city is desperate. The 5,815 single parent families living in the inner city represent 1 in 4 of all single parent families in Winnipeg. They constitute 22% of the families living in the inner city, compared to only 19% of the families outside the inner city.

A high school education is rarely achieved by single parents in the inner city. Seventy-one per cent have less than a secondary school certificate.

Labour force participation is chronically low. Only slightly more than half of inner city single parents are employed or actively looking for work. Of those in the labour force, 17% are unemployed. Among young single parents 15 to 24, the unemployment rate is a staggering 41%.

Low income levels are epidemic among inner city single parents. Almost 63% are below the low income line. The average income for a single parent living in the inner city is $15,610.



High shelter costs are a severe burden on the inner city single parent. More than 7 out of 10 rent, yet even including the figures for home owners, who are relatively better off, 62% of all inner city single parents experience high shelter costs.

A deteriorating situation:

The plight of the single parent is a difficult one, and it is becoming worse. Single parents are growing in number, and the economic pressures under which they live are increasing.

The number of single parent families is on the rise. In 1981 there were 19,145 single parent families. In 1986 there were 22,505, an increase of over 17%.

Unemployment is also increasing. In 1981 unemployment was running at just under 7% among single parents. In 1986 it was over 10%.

Household income, although it is rising, is falling further and further behind that of other households. In 1981, the average income for single parent households was $16,410. In 1986 it had risen to $23,463. In comparison, two parent household income rose from $31,568 in 1981 to $42,320 in 1986. Single parent families simply do not have the resources that are available to two parent families.

High shelter costs, already a problem for single parents, is becoming a reality for more and more of them. The proportion of single parents who experience high shelter costs has risen from almost 48% in 1981 to nearly 52% in 1986. When renters alone are considered, affordability problems between 1981 and 1986 rose from 63% to 69%.

Native and visible minority single parent families are increasing more rapidly than other single parent families. This is a particularly disturbing trend because Natives and visible minorities are among the most disadvantaged of all groups. The increasing number of single parents among them is a double burden for Natives, visible minorities, and single parents.

Households

What is a household?

A household consists of a group of people who occupy a dwelling. There are 5 major types of households: husband and wife without children, husband and wife with children, single parent, multiple family, and non-family. The first 4 are self-explanatory. The last category, non-family, simply refers to single person households or households in which 2 or more unrelated individuals decide to share a dwelling for reasons that are not family related. For example, 2 or more people may decide to live together in order to share the cost of rent.

The changing nature of Winnipeg's households:

Winnipeg continues to be dominated by family households of one type or another. The situation, however, is not stable. The fastest growing types of households are non-family and less traditional family households, specifically those of single parents. The change, however, is much more dramatic in the inner city than it is outside the inner city. Non-family households dominate the inner city, while, outside the inner city, much more traditional husband and wife families dominate.

The middling years – the age of stability:

The traditional pattern of family rearing and family stability is most apparent among the 25 to 64 age group, as defined by the age of the household maintainer. Family households of all types are the most abundant in this group compared to all other age groups. More than 75% of households where the maintainer is between 25 and 64 are family households. Households in which the maintainer is under 25 or over 64 are much more likely to be of the non-family type. More than half of the households where the maintainer is either under 25 or over 64 are non-family households.

Winds of change:

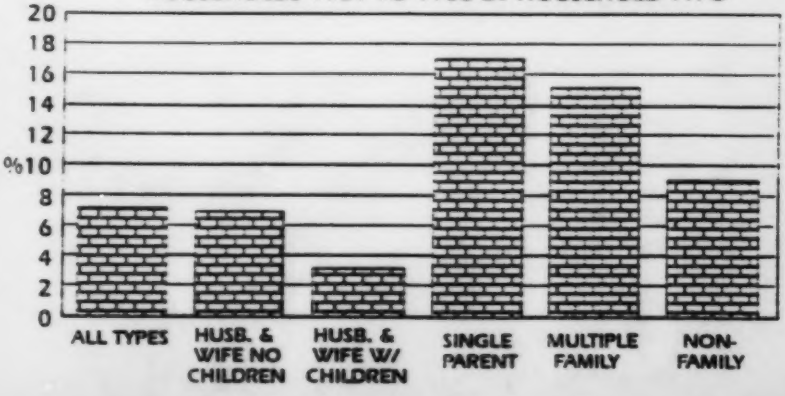
Despite the strength of the traditional pattern of family households in the 25 to 64 age group, there is a significant shift away from family to non-family households within this same age group. The proportion of non-family households where the maintainer is 25 to 64 has gone up by 27% between 1981 and 1986. This compares to an increase in the number of family households of only 13.5% for the same maintainer age group over the same period of time.

The trend towards increasing numbers of non-family households is consistent across all age groups. In addition, within the various family households, the greatest growth is in less traditional family types, such as the single parent family. Although the number of family households rose by almost 7% from 145,110 in 1981 to 154,710 in 1986, the number of single parents families increased by 19%, from 17,970 in 1981 to 21,385 in 1986. Single parent families now comprise almost 10% of all family households. At the same time, non-family households rose from 66,130 to 72,440, an increase of 9.5%. In contrast, husband and wife households without children increased by only 7.4%, while husband and wife households with children increased by only 3%.

In fact, while single parent, multiple family, and non-family households demonstrated a growth in their proportional representation, husband and wife households both with children and without children actually showed a slight decline.

MORE HOUSEHOLDS

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF WINNIPEG HOUSEHOLDS 1981 TO 1986 BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE



The inner city – home for the non-family household:

The inner city is dominated by non-family households. More than 1 in every 2 inner city households is non-family, while about 1 in every 3 is a husband and wife household. This compares to only 1 in 4 households outside the inner city that are non-family, where almost 2 out of 3 are husband and wife households.

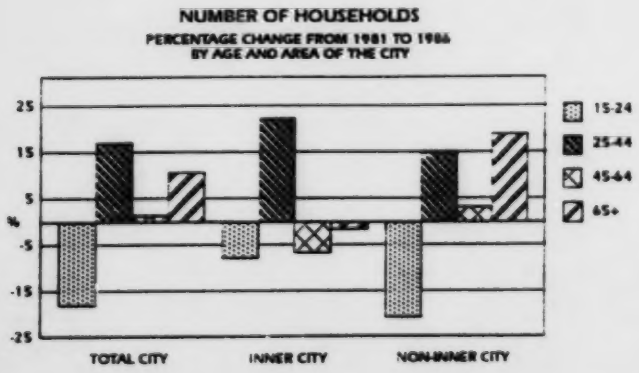
Rising number of Natives and visible minorities:

The increase in the number of households in the inner city specifically, but also for the city as a whole, can be attributed to the enormous increases in the number of Native and visible minority households. Together they account for over 58% of the growth in the number of households. Between 1981 and 1986 the city grew by 15,905 households. During those same years, visible minority households increased in number by 5,740 and Native households by 3,530, for a combined total of 9,270. In 1981 Native and visible minority households together formed 6.9% of all households. By 1986 they formed 12.5%. The number of Native households alone grew by 80%.

The young and the old:

Two very important trends in the changing structure of the household are the tremendous reduction in the number of younger households and the substantial increase in the number of elderly households.

The number of households where the maintainer is under 25 not only failed to rise with the general increase in the number of households; it has actually declined. In 1981 there were 21,335 households where the maintainer was 24 or younger. By 1986 this had fallen to 17,545, a decrease of 18%. On the other hand, where the maintainer is over 64 the number of households has seen a significant increase. In 1981, there were 41,425 households of this type. By 1986 the figure had risen to 46,415, an increase of 12%.



Employment

Dynamic growth:

More people are participating in the labour force, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the population. The most significant factor in this growth is the large increase in the number of working women. At the same time, unemployment has been steadily declining since 1983. Despite the increases in employment levels, unemployment among young people under 25, single parents, and Natives continues to be a problem, with chronic difficulties being experienced in the inner city.

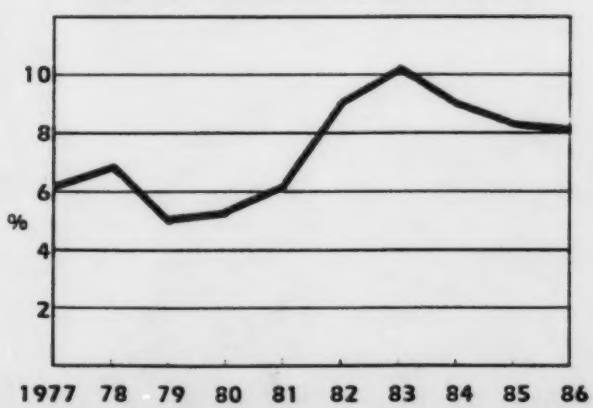
Growth of the labour force has been dramatic. In 1977 the size of the labour force was 285,300. By 1986 it had risen to 330,400, an increase of almost 16%. At the same time the population grew by just under 9%.

The increase in the number of working women is the single most significant factor in the growth of the labour force. In the late 1970's there was a surge of women entering the labour force. Female participation was increasing 4 to 10 times more rapidly than male. Between 1977 and 1986 the number of women in the labour force grew by almost 28%, from 117,700 to 150,300. During the same period the number of men in the labour force grew by approximately 8%, from 167,600 to 180,100.

Unemployment, despite the growing size of the labour force, has declined since 1983. However, fluctuations do occur. In 1977 unemployment stood at just over 6%. It rose to 10.6% in 1983, and then declined steadily to stand at 8.2% in 1986.

UN

WINNIPEG EMPLOYMENT RATE 1977-1986



Concerns:

Despite the generally optimistic trends reflected in both the increasing size of the work force and the declining level of unemployment, not everyone is benefiting equally. Young people, single parents, Natives, and those within the inner city continue to experience severe employment problems.

Young people, those under 25, tend to be unemployed or underemployed more often than those over 25. Slightly more than 12% of the young are unemployed, almost 79% work part time, and over 38% work less than 26 weeks a year.

Single parents have real difficulties in the labour market. Although their unemployment levels seem relatively low at just under 11%, this figure does not reflect the rate at which they participate in the labour force. A more accurate picture of single parent employment is revealed by looking at how many single parents are actually employed. The picture is not encouraging. Only 58.4% are working, compared to a city wide employment rate of almost 63%.

Natives are in an even worse situation. While 22% of the Native population is unemployed, a significant figure in itself, when labour force participation is taken into account, it is revealed that less than half of all Natives living in Winnipeg are employed.

The inner city continues to be the home of the poor and the unemployed. In the categories of labour force participation and unemployment, Natives, single parents, immigrants, and visible minorities are all significantly worse off in the inner city than they are outside the inner city. For example, in the most extreme cases, that of both Natives and single parents, only 1 out of 2 even participate in the labour force, compared to almost 7 out of 10 for the same 2 groups outside the inner city. Unemployment is particularly devastating among inner city Natives. In 1985 only 60% of inner city Natives were employed, full or part time, for more than 26 weeks. If this is added to the 50% of inner city Natives who did not work at all, it turns out that only 30% of inner city Natives 15 and over were employed for more than 26 weeks in 1985.

Education and employment success:

Education is clearly an effective gauge of an individual's ability to participate successfully in the work force. With the exception of Natives and visible minorities, educational achievement as an indicator of an individual's employment success cuts across all ethnic and social lines.

Labour force participation is much lower among those with lower levels of education. Slightly more than 53% of those with less than a secondary education 15 and older are in the labour force. This compares to work force participation levels of almost 76% of those with secondary school, more than 77% of those with a trade certificate or diploma, and 85% of those with at least some university.

Unemployment is also experienced much less frequently by those with higher levels of education. Those with less than a secondary education have an unemployment rate of 11%. This compares to an unemployment rate of slightly less than 8% of those with secondary school, 6% for those with a trade certificate or diploma, and slightly more than 6% for those with at least some university.

The anomaly to this pattern occurs among Natives and visible minorities. Visible minorities are the most well educated group in the city, and although they participate in the labour force at a higher rate than any other group, they are unemployed slightly more often. Breaking Winnipeg's total population down into Native, visible minority, and others, visible minority unemployment stands at almost 9%, compared to 7.3% for others. Also disproportionate is the Native unemployment rate of 21.6%. Although the proportion of Natives with some university or community college training is about 13 percentage points below the general population, unemployment rates for Natives are about 3 times those of the general population.

Single Parents and Child Welfare Services

High risk of involvement:

The number of single parents with one or more children under the age of 18 is increasing rapidly across the city. Single parent families have a high risk of being involved with the child welfare system. In fact, they are 4 times more likely to need these services than husband and wife families. Consequently, the rapid increase in the number of single parent families creates a corresponding increase in the potential demand for child welfare services.

Additional risk factors:

Apart from single parenthood itself, there are 4 other factors that put single parent families at increasingly greater risk of needing assistance from child welfare services. These factors are:

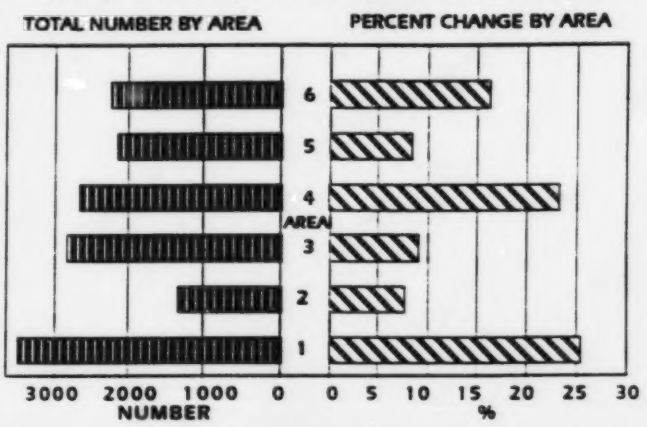
1. being of Native descent
2. having 2 or more children under 18
3. being unemployed or not in the labour force
4. being under 25 years of age.

Any one of these factors, coupled with single parenthood, increases the risk that single parent families will need to call upon the child welfare system. The risk increases as the number of factors increases. For instance, the greatest risk is to families in which the maintainer is an unemployed Native single parent under the age of 25 with 2 or more children.

Communities at risk:

High risk areas: City Centre-Fort Rouge, Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan, and East Kildonan-Transcona are the areas of highest risk. They have high single parent populations, high levels of young single parent families where the household maintainer is under 25, high numbers of single parents families with 2 or more children under 18, high levels of unemployment among single parents, and a high concentration of native single parent families. Together, the 3 areas, with 9,035 single parent families out of a total of 14,820, account for more than 60% of all single parent families in Winnipeg. The number of single parent families is also increasing much faster than other areas of the city. City Centre-Fort Rouge and East Kildonan-Transcona account for 61% of the total increase in the number of single parent families.

CONCENTRATION OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES



1 - CITY CENTRE - FORT ROUGE
2 - ST. JAMES - ASSINIBOIA
3 - LORD SELKIRK - WEST KILDONAN
4 - EAST KILDONAN - TRANSCONA
5 - ST. BONIFACE - ST. VITAL
6 - FORT GARRY - ASINIBOINE PARK

Young single parents under the age of 25 are concentrated in City Centre-Fort Rouge and Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan. Together, they have 1,050 young single parent families out of a total 1,670. They are also the only 2 areas of the city that show an increase in the number of young single parent families. Both demonstrated proportional increases of between 17% and 20% during the years 1981 to 1986. Unemployment is chronic in these 3 areas. In East Kildonan-Transcona the number of unemployed single parents has gone up by over 41% between 1981 and 1986, while City Centre-Fort Rouge has experienced an increase of 28% over the same period of time.

Mid risk area: Fort Garry-Assiniboine Park is a mid risk area of the city when it comes to categorizing the potential need for child welfare services. With a single parent family population of 2,285, this area had a moderate increase of 16% in the number of single parent families between 1981 and 1986. However, the number of young single parents declined by slightly more than 18%. Other risk factors, however, have increased. The number of families with 2 or more children under 18,

levels of unemployment, and the number of Native single parent families have all gone up.

Low risk areas: St.Boniface-St.Vital and St.James-Assiniboia are the 2 areas of the city where single parent families are least likely to find it necessary to call upon child welfare services. The number of young single parent families has declined, and unemployment has either remained stable or declined slightly. However, the number of Native single parent families has increased dramatically and is a cause of significant concern. St.James-Assiniboia had an increase of over 500% in the number of Native single parent families, while St.Boniface-St.Vital had an increase of 127%.

Combining the risk factors:

Single parent families with 3 or 4 high risk factors must be considered to be very likely to need the assistance of child welfare services. Combining the risk factors, City Centre-Fort Rouge and Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan remain the highest areas of the city. Fort Garry-Assiniboine Park, however, moves from its place of mid risk to that of lowest risk. The number of young single parents out of work has declined from 55 in 1981 to only 15 in 1986, and the number of high risk families has increased by only 20%. Conversely, the enormous increase in the number of high risk families in St.James-Assiniboia suggests that this community is potentially more in need of child welfare services than an examination of the separate risk categories might otherwise suggest. For example, in 1986 +00% of single parents under 25 were out of work in St.James-Assiniboia.

Income

The widening gap:

The household income structure in the city of Winnipeg is becoming polarized. The high income and the low income groups are increasing in number, while the size of the middle income groups is diminishing. Calculated in 1985 constant dollars*, 23% of all households earned less than $10,000 in 1985, up from 22.2% in 1980. During this same period the proportion of households earning $35,000 and more rose from 17.9% to 20.3%. Meanwhile, the number of households earning between $10,000 and $35,000 declined from 59.8% in 1980 to 56.8% in 1985.

Winners and losers:

By household type: The winners are clearly multiple and two parent families. Their incomes have seen significant increases and demonstrate by far the largest margins of increase. Multiple family real income, which averaged $34,393 in 1980, rose to an average of $38,746 by 1985, an increase of almost 13%. The real income of two parent family households rose from $31,568 in 1980 to $33,284 in 1985, an increase of 5.4%.

The losers are single person and single parent households, which although they experienced a rise in income, did so at a significantly lower rate than multiple and two parent family households. Starting at a lower income level to begin with, single parent household income rose by only $436. In 1980 single parent household income stood at $16,410. By 1985 it had risen to only $16,846. This is an increase of less than 3%. A similarly small increase was experienced by single person households.

By age: The young and the elderly also are disadvantaged. Both are in the lowest income bracket more often than any other age group. Households where the age of the maintainer is between 15 and 24 earn less than $10,000 in 43.4% of the cases, while households where the age of the maintainer is 65 and over earn less than $10,000 a year in 42.7% of the cases. Although the elderly have actually demonstrated a decrease in the number of households earning less than $10,000, the proportion of the 15 to 24 age group earning less than $10,000 has increased dramatically from 36.1% in 1980 to 43.4% in 1985. Conversely, households where the age of the maintainer is 45 to 54 have the highest incomes. Only 11.5% of these households earn less than $10,000 a year, and almost 40% earn $35,000 or more. In comparison, only 3% of households where the maintainer is 15 to 24 and 8.2% where the household maintainer is 65 or older earn $35,000 or more.

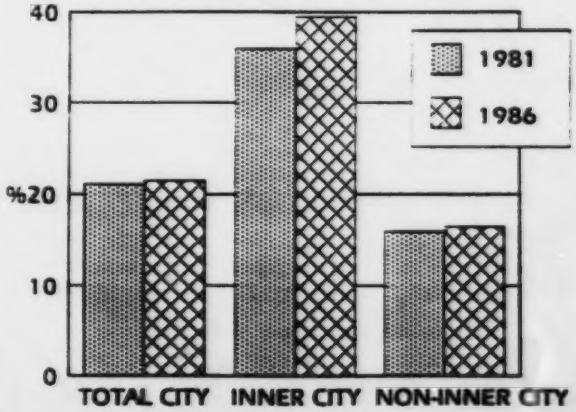
The poverty trap - inner city crisis:

The reality of the poverty trap is most apparent in the inner city. The figures are dramatic and disturbing. Outside the inner city, between 1980 and 1985, household incomes rose from $35,120 to $36,529. within the inner city, household incomes actually declined from $22,659 to $22,315. As a result, the gap between the average household income of the inner city and the non-inner city rose by over $1700, from $12,461 to $14,214.

Low income levels are experienced by twice as many inner city households as non-inner city households. At the same time, while the number of low-income households outside the inner city has remained stable at

MORE LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH LOW INCOMES BY YEAR AND BY AREA OF THE CITY



*These income categories are in 1980 constant dollars. In 1985, less than $10,000 was equivalent to less than $13,925.

around 16.5%, the number of inner city low-income households has been rising. Between 1981 and 1986, the proportion of inner city households experiencing low levels of income rose from 36.2% to 39.5%, an increase of almost 14%.

Inner city single parents and inner city young Natives are the 2 groups with the greatest risk of experiencing low incomes. The figures are staggering. Almost 63% of inner city parent households were below the low income line in 1986, compared to a little over 35% outside the inner city. Native households where the maintainer is under 25 are even worse off. A staggering 82% of these households live below the low income line. The trends for both groups are not encouraging. More single parent households and more young Native households are falling below the low income line. Single parent low income households in the inner city increased from 54.1% in 1981 to 62.8% in 1986. During the same period, young Native low income households rose from 72.1% to 81.7%.

Looking to the future – the struggle against poverty:

Two of the lowest income groups are Natives and the elderly. Although still chronically disadvantaged, both groups show significant gains. They are, in fact, the only disadvantaged groups to show an increase, rather than a decrease, in income. Native households have low incomes much more frequently than households of any other group. Never theless, between 1981 and 1986 the proportion of Native households below the low income line has fallen from 60.1% to 53.6%. The elderly, 65 and older, have experienced similar gains. Along with young people 15 to 24, the elderly have a low average income more often than those in any other age group. Unlike the young, however, for the elderly things are getting better. Between 1980 and 1985 the proportion of elderly households earning less than $10,000 a year declined by 7%, from 46.7% to 42.7%.

Housing

What makes a home?

For Statistics Canada, a home is a set of living quarters, either owned or rented, in which a person or group of persons is in permanent and private residence.

The affordability gap:

Home ownership is dominated by high income husband and wife households who live outside the inner city. A significant increase in home ownership, however, is taking place among non-family households. Since relatively high income is necessary for the purchase of a home in the first place, high shelter costs are less of a problem for home owners than for renters. For those who do rent, shelter costs on the high income end are coming down, while those on the low end are rising. This merging towards the middle price ranges puts a severe burden on the low income renter. Their rent is, in fact, going up, while the rent of higher income groups is actually declining. A much larger proportion of inner city households are rented than those outside the inner city. Although rental costs are high relative to inner city income, rents in absolute dollar terms are actually lower in the inner city.

Dramatic growth in home ownership:

Home ownership dominates Winnipeg's housing picture. Out of a total of 227,145 households, 135,265 are owned. Only 91,880 are rented. Not only does home ownership dominate, the trend is towards an even greater degree of home ownership. Between 1981 and 1986 home ownership grew significantly, outpacing the growth in rented accomodation by a wide margin. Overall, the number of dwellings rose from 211,240 to 227,145, an increase of 15,910. By far the majority of this increase occurred in dwellings that are owned. The number of owned dwellings grew by 12,985, while the number of rented dwellings grew by only 2,920. this increase in the number of owned dwellings is taking place predominantly outside the inner city. The inner city saw an increase of owned dwellings of only 650, while the number of dwellings outside the inner city increased by 12,330.

Non-family households demonstrate the most striking increase in ownership. In 1981 27.5% of non-family households owned housing. By 1986 this had risen to 32%.

Husband and wife households with children also saw significant gains. In 1981 65.8% of this household type owned housing. By 1986 the figure had risen to slightly more than 69%.

Single parent households in the inner city also show an increase in the total number of owned dwellings. However, because of the tremendous increase in the number of single parent households, the proportion of single parents who own housing has declined from 32% in 1981 to just over 28% in 1986.

Age of the household maintainer is a significant indicator of ownership. The proportion of households which are owned increases with the age of the household maintainer until the age of 65, whereupon it declines. Where the maintainer is under 25, slightly less than 16% of the households are owned. This increases substantially to almost 59% ownership where the maintainer is between 25 and 44. Ownership in the next age group, 45 to 64, increases substantially as well to almost 75%. Beyond 64, however, the proportion of households that are owned drops to slightly more than 57%.

Income levels are a major indicator of ownership. Eighty-eight percent of households where household incomes are over $48,000 are owned. This compares to ownership levels of only 28% for those with household incomes under $13,000.

Native descent and ethnic origin also determines ownership. Natives are the least likely to own their own homes. Only 31.4% of Native households are owned. Visible minority households, at 58.2%, are next, while, collectively, households with any other ethnic origin have the highest rate of ownership at 61.4%.

The rental squeeze:

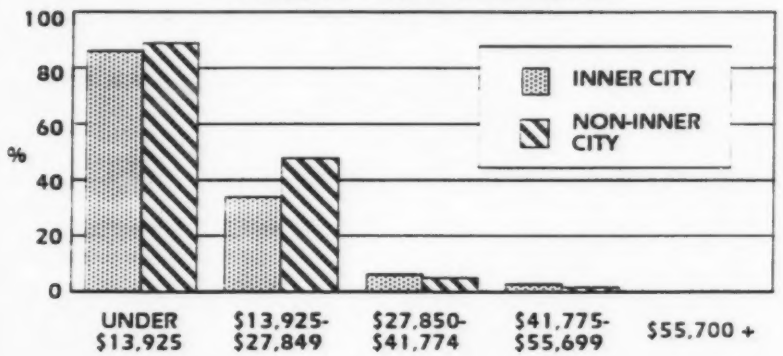
Low income renters are being forced into higher priced units. As a consequence they are paying a larger portion of their household incomes on shelter. The number of rental units is declining at both the low and the high end of the price range. At the same time, the number of moderately priced units is increasing.

Between 1981 and 1986, the number of units

priced under $412* a month decreased by 11%. The number of units priced over $962 a month has also decreased by almost 15%. The number of units available in the middle categories, however, has increased dramatically. For example, the number of units priced between $412 and $686 have increased almost 22%, while the number of units in the $687 to $962 price range has increased by almost 77%. This collapse of high and low cost rental accommodation towards the centre means that the cost of shelter for low income renters has increased, while the cost of shelter for high income renters has actually declined. Between 1981 and 1986, rent for the bottom 98% of the population rose from $356 to $381. During the same period, rent for the top 2% of the population decreased from $2,288 to $1,982. The loss of lower priced rental units puts a severe burden on low income earners. In the 2 lowest income groups, the number of renters who experience high shelter costs is critical. "High shelter costs" is a term used to describe a situation in which the cost of shelter consumes 25% or more of household income. Among renters with household incomes less than $13,925, over 85% in the inner city and almost 89% outside the inner city experience high shelter costs.

HIGH SHELTER COST

PERCENTAGE OF RENTERS PAYING 25%+ OF INCOME, BY AREA OF THE CITY AND INCOME



Inner city – the renters' domain:

A much larger proportion of inner city households rent, compared to households outside the inner city. In fact, while the proportion of owned to rented dwellings increased outside the inner city from 65% in 1981 to 76% in 1986, the proportion of dwellings that are owned in the inner city declined slightly from 34.4% to 34.3%. Because incomes are generally lower in the inner city, high shelter costs are experienced more frequently by both inner city renters and owners, compared to those outside the inner city. However, housing costs, dollar for dollar, are actually lower in the inner city.

*All dollar figures have been adjusted for inflation so that the 1981 dollar and the 1986 dollar are of equal value.

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